

Appl. No. : 09/997,310
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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An apparatus for grilling, comprising:

a grill having an upper surface and a lower surface, the lower surface being adapted for receiving heat from a heating source and the upper surface being adapted for transmitting heat for grilling;

a cover having an interior surface and an exterior surface, wherein the cover comprises a rear portion, a front portion, and a lateral portion;

a hollow cavity between the interior surface of the cover and the upper grilling surface, such that when the cover is substantially closed, objects on the grilling surface do not contact the interior surface of the cover;

an opening formed between the front and lateral portions of the cover and the upper grilling surface, the opening being adjustable by rotation of the cover;

a motor coupled to the rear portion of the cover, said motor operating to adjust the opening between the cover and the upper grilling surface; and

a motor controller for adjusting the opening, wherein the motor and motor controller are configured to adjust the size of the opening during cooking to vary cooking conditions.

2. (canceled)

3. (previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the motor controller comprises a remote control for transmitting control signals to said motor.

4. (previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 3, wherein said remote control transmits start and stop signals to said motor.

5. (original) The apparatus of Claim 4, wherein said motor operates only during the transmission of control signals to said motor.

6. (original) The apparatus of Claim 4, wherein said remote control transmits signals to control flow of a combustible fuel.

7. (previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said motor is removable from the cover; wherein removal of the motor does not prevent use of the grill.

8. (original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said motor is battery powered.

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9. (currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said motor stops movement of the cover at a point within a full range of the cover movement position between fully open and fully closed.

10. (canceled)

11. (canceled)

12. (currently amended) A cooking apparatus, comprising:

a grilling surface;

a heating source for transmitting heat to the grilling surface;

a cover that provides a hollow chamber having an adjustable opening over said grilling surface;

a motor coupled to said cover, said motor operating to adjust the opening between said cover and said grilling surface; and

a remote control that transmits a control signal to said motor, wherein the control signal causes the opening to vary in size during cooking, thereby varying the cooking conditions.

13. (canceled)

14. (previously presented) The cooking apparatus of Claim 12, wherein said remote control transmits start and stop signals to said motor.

15. (previously presented) The cooking apparatus of Claim 12, wherein said motor operates only during the transmission of control signals to said motor.

16. (previously presented) The cooking apparatus of Claim 12, wherein said remote control transmits signals to control flow of a combustible fuel.

17. (original) The cooking apparatus of Claim 12, further comprising a counterweight attached at the rear of the cover.

18. (previously presented) The cooking apparatus of Claim 12, wherein said motor is detachable.

19. (original) The cooking apparatus of Claim 12, wherein said motor is battery powered.

20. (currently amended) The cooking apparatus of Claim 12, wherein said motor stops movement of the cover at a point within a full range of the cover movement position between fully open and fully closed.

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21. (canceled)

22. (canceled)

23. (currently amended) A method of controlling the opening of a hollow chamber between a cover and a grilling surface, comprising:

transmitting heat to the grilling surface;

causing a motor to operate upon receiving a first signal; said motor coupled to the cover such that operation of said motor causes an adjustment in the placement of the cover over the grilling surface, wherein adjusting the placement of the cover varies the cooking conditions; and

causing said motor to stop operating upon receiving a second signal.

24. (original) The method of Claim 23, wherein activating a first control generates said first signal.

25. (original) The method of Claim 24, wherein releasing said first control generates said second signal.

26. (original) The method of Claim 24, wherein activating a second control generates said second signal.

27. (original) An apparatus for attaching a motor to a cover of a grilling surface, comprising:

a motor support beam having an adjustable length, said motor support beam comprising a motor attachment surface for attachment to the motor and at least one base attachment surface for attachment to a support base of the grilling surface.

28. (currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 27, further comprising a counterweight having an a cover attachment surface for attachment of said counterweight to the cover of the grilling surface.

29. (original) The apparatus of Claim 28, further comprising a coupling rod for attaching the motor to said counterweight

30. (original) The apparatus of Claim 27, further comprising a coupling rod for coupling the motor to the cover of the grilling surface.

31. (original) The apparatus of Claim 27, wherein said motor support beam comprises a first portion insertable into a second portion.

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32. (original) The apparatus of Claim 31, wherein said first portion has a threaded exterior portion, and said second portion has a threaded interior portion, the length of said motor beam being determined by turning said first portion with respect to said second position.

33. (original) The apparatus of Claim 31, wherein said motor support beam further comprises a spring member that presses said first portion away from said second portion.

34. (original) The apparatus of Claim 31, wherein at least one of said first portion and said second portion has a plurality of holes, the length of said motor beam being determined by inserting a pin through one of said plurality of holes.

35. (original) The apparatus of Claim 31, wherein the motor suspends from said motor support beam.

36. (previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the cover is cupped over the upper grilling surface.

37. (canceled)

38. (new) An apparatus for grilling, comprising:

a grill having an upper surface and a lower surface, the lower surface being adapted for receiving heat from a heating source and the upper surface being adapted for transmitting heat for grilling;

a cover having an interior surface and an exterior surface;

a hollow cavity between the interior surface of the cover and the upper grilling surface, such that when the cover is substantially closed, objects on the grilling surface do not contact the interior surface of the cover;

a motor coupled to a rear portion of the cover, said motor operating to adjust the opening between the cover and the upper grilling surface; and

a counterweight attached at the rear portion of the cover.

39. (new) The apparatus of Claim 38, wherein the motor controller comprises a remote control for transmitting control signals to said motor.

40. (new) The apparatus of Claim 38, wherein said motor is battery powered.

41. (new) A cooking apparatus, comprising:

a grilling surface;

a cover that provides a hollow chamber having an adjustable opening over the grilling surface;

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a motor coupled to the cover, the motor operating to adjust the opening between the cover and the grilling surface; and

a counterweight coupled to the cover.

42. (new) The cooking apparatus of Claim 41, further comprising a remote control that transmits a control signal to the motor.

43. (new) The cooking apparatus of Claim 41, wherein the motor is battery powered.

44. (new) An apparatus for grilling, comprising:

a grill having an upper surface and a lower surface, the lower surface being adapted for receiving heat from a heating source and the upper surface being adapted for transmitting heat for grilling, wherein said lower grilling surface is heated by a charcoal briquette fueled heat source;

a cover having an interior surface and an exterior surface, wherein the cover comprises a rear portion, a front portion, and a lateral portion;

a hollow cavity between the interior surface of the cover and the upper grilling surface, such that when the cover is substantially closed, objects on the grilling surface do not contact the interior surface of the cover;

an opening formed between the front and lateral portions of the cover and the upper grilling surface, the opening being adjustable by rotation of the cover;

a motor coupled to the rear portion of the cover, said motor operating to adjust the opening between the cover and the upper grilling surface; and

a motor controller for adjusting the opening.

45. (new) An apparatus for grilling, comprising:

a grill having an upper surface and a lower surface, the lower surface being adapted for receiving heat from a heating source and the upper surface being adapted for transmitting heat for grilling, wherein said lower grilling surface is heated by a combustible gas fueled heat source;

a cover having an interior surface and an exterior surface, wherein the cover comprises a rear portion, a front portion, and a lateral portion;

a hollow cavity between the interior surface of the cover and the upper grilling surface, such that when the cover is substantially closed, objects on the grilling surface do not contact the interior surface of the cover;

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an opening formed between the front and lateral portions of the cover and the upper grilling surface, the opening being adjustable by rotation of the cover;
a motor coupled to the rear portion of the cover, said motor operating to adjust the opening between the cover and the upper grilling surface; and
a motor controller for adjusting the opening.

46. (new) A method of controlling the opening of a hollow chamber between a cover and a grilling surface, comprising:

causing a motor to operate upon receiving a first signal; said motor coupled to the cover such that operation of said motor causes an adjustment in the placement of the cover over the grilling surface, wherein the placement of the cover controls an amount of smoke generated from combustion of a wood product; and

causing said motor to stop operating upon receiving a second signal.

47. (new) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the cover is maintained in a partially open position during cooking.

48. (new) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the cover can be maintained at any position between fully open and fully closed.